

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed International Application. The claims have also been amended to delete improper multiple dependencies and to place the application into better form for examination. Entry of the present amendment and favorable action on the above-identified application are earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up copy of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Version With Markings Showing Changes Made

(Rev. 01/22/01)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE

The specification has been amended to provide cross-referencing to the International Application.

The claims have been amended as follows:

6. (Amended) Statistical multiplexing method according to [any one of the previous claims]claim 1, where some of said connections are supported by flows of ATM cells that require a control of the peak band such to prevent that a given maximum band value within said multiplexed flow (LINK-OUT) is exceeded, characterized by the fact to have recourse to a first timing that expands the emission intervals of at least some said indicators (B-ID) of the functional blocks (Bj) to limit the aggregate peak band of the group of connections belonging to the selected blocks.

12. (Amended) Statistical multiplexing method according to [any one of claim 7 to 11]claim 7, characterized in that said indicators (B-ID, Q-ID) extracted from a common location (N-SLOT-B, N-SLOT-Q) of a relevant calendar, are extracted according to the FIFO method.

20. (Amended) Statistical multiplexer according to [any claim 13 through 19]claim 13, where said connections having service classes of different quality, include some for which the peak cell-rate is guaranteed, and therefore do not involve flows

that have not the possibility to avail of said additional band possibly available on said multiplexed flow (LINK-OUT), said flows at the peak rate generating transmission queues of said unique block are served with priority until said indicator device (RT-GLAD) is active.

21. (Amended) Statistical multiplexer according to [any claims 13 through 20]claim 13, where some of said connections are supported by flows of ATM cells requiring a control of the peak band such to prevent that a given maximum band value within said multiplexed flow (LINK-OUT) is exceeded, characterized in that it includes first timing means (SHAPER-B, SCHEDULER-B) that expand the emission intervals of at least some said indicators (B-ID) of the functional blocks (Bj) to limit the aggregate peaks band of the group of connections belonging to the selected blocks.

26. (Amended) Statistical multiplexer according to claim 24, [or 25,] characterized in that said second shaper (SHAPER-Q) operates in parallel to said second scheduler (SCHEDULER-Q).

27. (Amended) Statistical multiplexer according to [any claim 22 through 26]claim 22, characterized in that said indicators (B-ID, Q-ID) extracted from a common location (N-SLOT-B, N-SLOT-Q) of a relevant calendar, are extracted according to the FIFO method.